and grants from other Government Agencies to the tune of Rs. 150 lakhs have also been received.

(f) The Government of Karnataka is providing the administrative, logistics and technical support in the organisation of the event and supporting the Bangalore University with adequate financial resources.

Indo-Brazil collaboration in Biotechnology

3255. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Brazil signed a MoU recently, on a work plan for collaboration in various fields of biotechnology; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in Science and Technology was signed in July 2001 between the Ministries of Science and Technology of India and Brazil. Subsequently an agreed work plan for cooperation in Biotechnology was signed on October 23, 2002 at New Delhi between the Department of Biotechnology and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil. The areas identified for collaboration are : agricultural and medical biotechnology, bioinformatics, functional and comparative genomics. Joint projects on Rice and Maize, some medicinal plants and bioprospecting of genes and molecules are of high priority. Research, training an exchange of scientists, workshops and technology transfer are the main components of the agreed work plan.

R&D fund for Drug Industry

3256. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has finally earmarked a sum of Rs. 150 crore, as R&D promotion fund for the drug industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in providing this fund;